

A NEW SELF-RETAINING SEPTAL SPECULUM.

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Resection of the nasal septum for the various deformities interfering with the normal nasal respiration and drainage, by a fairly general consensus of opinion among Rhinologists, has taken its place in the list of the requisite operative procedures that we are daily called upon to consider.

It is unnecessary at this time to review the immediate steps that have led to the adoption of the complete operation of nasal septum resection, with its various modifications dependent upon the conditions of the septum encountered in individual cases (so many reports are readily accessible in the latest literature upon the subject) as we desire only to call attention to a septal speculum that has been employed in our work for some time, and after various modifications is presented in its perfect form.

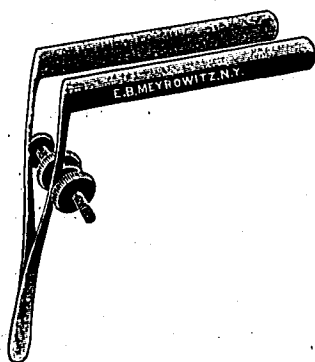
Particular attention is called to its lightness in structure, ease and simplicity of application and the comprehensive view of the operation field afforded when the instrument is in situ. After the mucous membrane on the side selected for beginning the operation is incised its muco-perichondrium thoroughly elevated, the cartilage cut, and the muco-perichondrium on the other side elevated, all adhesions on both sides removed, the speculum is placed in position. When the speculum is properly introduced into the nares through the cut muco-perichondrium and cartilage along the internal surface of the muco-perichondrium, the cartilage is fully exposed to view, and the mucous membranes are thoroughly protected against damage when Ballenger's Swivel knife, Freer's knives, or any other cutting instrument can be used in the removal of the septal cartilage; furthermore, after the requisite amount of cartilage has been removed, with the speculum in position, a complete view of the bony structures i.e., vomer, maxillary ridge, etc., is afforded, so that the operative work may be continued to its completion, and the surgeon is prepared to cleanse the parts, and pack the nares.

All of the aforementioned work can be accomplished without at any time removing the speculum, as the instrument is self-retaining, closely hugging the soft tissues, and because of its lightness of construction, never acts as an obstacle to the work required to complete the operation.

A very important point to be considered in using the instrument (especially to one who has not had much experience in septal resection) is the almost complete immunity from the risk of tearing the mucous membranes when employing cutting instruments for the removal of cartilage and bone.

Many an operator, I believe, has for a time abandoned this almost requisite surgical procedure, after his first sad experience in tearing a rather wide swath through the mucous membrane that has afterward remained unhealed.

The speculum consists of two long, light and solid blades $6\frac{1}{2}$ centimeters in length, with two side springs, 7 centimeters in length. At the upper third of the right spring and penetrating it to the left spring is a slightly curved threaded bar. A lock nut



Author's Self-Retaining Septal Speculum.

rides on the bar external to the right side spring and controls the extent to which the blades may be opened. A gauge nut is placed on the bar between the two side springs, so that the blades may be opened and the mucous membrane in the nares kept fixed and as far apart as desired by the operator.

The further apart the blades can be spread without injury to the mucous membranes (although up to date, with the blades wide spread; no accident has occurred) the greater the field for operative procedure is afforded, and the less opportunity for damage permitted.

I desire to express my appreciation in the valuable aid given by Mr. I. Goldstein of the Surgical Instrument Department of E. B. Meyrowitz, of this city.

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